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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SINGH, RACHNA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/599,950

Applicant(s)

REJ, PAWEL

Examiner

Rachna Singh

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed 6/23/000.
2. Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 26 are independent claims.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed on 6/23/00.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al., US Patent 5,633,996, 5/27/97.

In reference to claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 26, Hayashi teaches a device and method for layout of a structured document using multi-column areas. Specifically he teaches a tree data structure of logical objects comprising the following:

- A logical structure storing means for storing the logical structure of a document.
- See columns 1-2 and 24.

- A document content storing means for storing document contents corresponding to each of the components of the logical structure stored in the logical structure storing means. See column 24.
- A layout directive storing means for storing, corresponding to each of the components of the logical structure, layout directive information indicating as to whether a document content corresponding to each of the components of the logical structure is to be laid out in a single column or in a multi-column area that extends over plural columns. See column 24. Compare to ***“determining which of the plurality of nodes fit into each galley target”***.
- A content layout means for laying out the document content in one of the columns or in the multi-column area according to the logical structure stored in the logical structure storing means while referring to the layout directive information stored in the layout directive storing means. See column 24.
Compare to ***“... so as to create a split tree...”***.

Hayashi teaches determining if a plurality of nodes fit into a galley target and also discloses creating a split tree for tree fragments. While he does not state “marking the nodes with a mark specific to the galley target”, he does teach including layout type information indicative of whether a document content to be laid out in the column is in a manner as to be reflected in a multi-column area. See column 24. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to mark the nodes specific to the galley target because providing layout type information indicating whether the content is laid out in certain areas was well known in the art at the time of

the invention and providing such layout information is an indicator as is a mark. See column 24.

In reference to claims 2, 9, 14, and 22, Hayashi teaches a layout directive storing means for storing, corresponding to each of the components of the logical structure, layout directive information indicating as to whether a document content corresponding to each of the components of the logical structure is to be laid out in a single column or in a multi-column area that extends over plural columns. See column 24. The layout directive indicates the initial placement means for placing the multi-column area and determining means for performing layout of the components. See column 25. Thus Hayashi is checking to see if the size of the current node fits into the available space.

In reference to claims 3 and 15, Hayashi teaches that changing the position of the multi-column area based on subsequent layout determinations. See column 25.

In reference to claims 4-5, 10-11, 16-17, and 23, Hayashi teaches placing the multi-column area at an initial place while referring to the current column stored in the current column storing means; a subsequent layout determining means for determining components of the logical structure that become necessary to be laid out due to the placement of the multi-column area, a multi-column area position determining means which is repeatedly changed until the layout is successfully performed. See column 25. Although Hayashi does not set the child node as the new node, he still checks and compares the new node to the available space. See columns 24-25.

In reference to claims 6 and 18, Hayashi teaches generating a multi-column area over plural columns if the document content needs to be divided. Thus the layout

Art Unit: 2176

directive "marks" the content as unfit and lays it out over columns including the current column. See column 24.

In reference to claims 8, 12, 20, and 24, Hayashi teaches including layout type information indicative of whether a document content to be laid out in the column is laid out in such a manner as to be reflected at the multi-column area or to jump the multi-column area. Thus they are taking into consideration its "mark".

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Johnson et al., US Patent 6,334,125 B1 12/25/01 (filed 11/17/98)

Kothuri et al., US Patent 6,505,205 B1 1/7/03 (filed 1/3/02 (continuation filed 5/29/99))


Kelly et al., US Patent 5,173,853, 12/22/92

Orr, et al., WO 98/10356, 3/12/98

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachna Singh whose telephone number is 703.305.1952. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 703.305.9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.305.3900.


JOSEPH H. FEILD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

RS
10/30/03